

Announcement of Public Meetings and Request for Comments
on
Beyond RCRA: Prospects for Waste and Materials Management
in the Year 2020

A Draft White Paper

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to offer for your review and comment a draft White Paper, which outlines a new policy “vision” of a more sustainable system for future management of wastes and materials in the United States. This paper was drafted by a joint EPA-state-tribal work group charged with exploring how the country’s current waste management system might evolve to meet the challenges and opportunities of this century. The draft is intended to help stimulate a creative, forward-looking dialogue around this critical question.

We believe that these ideas are a good place to begin a very important discussion on the future of the nation’s waste program. As a first step to facilitate dialogue, two meetings are scheduled to discuss the paper in an open forum with RCRA stakeholders and other interested parties. Attendees will have the opportunity to address specific aspects of the paper as well as to interact with officials responsible for the ideas and approaches in it. The meetings are informal, and will be held on:

November 28, 2001, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM, in Room 1153 of the EPA East Building at 12th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC (first floor, Constitution Avenue entrance).

December 11, 2001, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM, at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, 450 Powell Street in downtown San Francisco, California.

The meeting discussions will be structured around several key questions, including the following:

- ! Are there any important flaws or omissions regarding the trends identified in the draft paper that might affect the goals and corresponding tools/strategies described in the document?
- ! From your perspective, are the goals for a future program as identified in the draft paper sound and appropriate?
- ! Do the identified tools/strategies for achieving each goal seem appropriate, or are there alternative tools/strategies that might be more successful?
- ! If the paper’s vision of a future program is a desirable outcome, what nearer term actions might be appropriate in working to achieve it?

If you plan on attending one or both of these meetings, we encourage you to preregister by

emailing Jennifer Agostinelli of Ross and Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd., at jennifer.agostinelli@ross-assoc.com. If there are questions about the draft paper or the upcoming meetings, please contact Angie Leith in EPA's Office of Solid Waste at (703) 308-7253, or by email at leith.angie@epa.gov.

In addition to the upcoming meetings, we invite written comments on the draft White Paper. We ask that such comments be submitted no later than January 15, 2002. Due to recent disruptions in postal deliveries, we strongly encourage you to email comments. Comments may be emailed to RCRA-Docket@epa.gov (subject: Beyond RCRA White Paper). Address regular mail to:

Beyond RCRA White Paper
c/o RCRA Information Center
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (5305G)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

A summary of the comments will be made available to all interested parties. All written comments will be available for viewing at the RCRA Information Center, located at Crystal Gateway 1, First Floor, 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Thank you for your comments and contributions to this valuable analysis of future directions for our nation's waste management program.